REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-33 were previously pending in the present application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-33 have been rejected. Claims 1-33 are still pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-9 and 17-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, it is stated within the Office Action that in Claims 1-9 and 17-25 it is not clear what the Applicant is contemplating by the use of the term "system."

A polymer "system" is defined as the "class" of all polymers bearing the claimed chemical structural features. Analogous terms could be "set" (mathematics), "group," "family" or "collection." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-9 and 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,214,923 to Goto et al. (hereafter "Goto et al.").

Specifically, it is stated within the Office Action that Goto et al. teach a polyimide-based aqueous dispersion having very good storage stability compared with conventional aqueous dispersions. It is further stated within the Office Action that Goto et al. teach that a composite is formed using a polyimide component and another polymer component. It is also stated within the Office Action that Goto et al. teach that the polyimide component may be a terminal modified polyimide, by adding for example a carboxylic mono-anhydride, a mono-amine compound, an amino acid, a mono-isocyanate compound and the like. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of Claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Goto et al. for the following reasons.

Goto et al. teach imide polymers, not the aramid or iminol polymers as claimed in the present application. Imide groups are characterized by dual carbonyl bonds to nitrogen, whereas amide and iminol groups are characterized by single carbonyl bonds to nitrogen. More specifically, Goto et al. fail to teach a polymer system with **amide linkages with hetero-atoms**

positioned beta relative to nitrogen atoms forming the amide linkages, a polymer system with **heterocyclic structures comprising the hetero-atom in the beta position** (aromatic polyamides), methods for making the same and a number of other features currently recited in each of the independent Claims 1, 17 and 26.

The independent Claim 1 recites a polymer system comprising amide linkages with hetero-atoms positioned beta relative to nitrogen atoms forming the amide linkages. As stated above, Goto et al. fail to teach or suggest a polymer system with amide linkages with hetero-atoms positioned beta relative to nitrogen atoms forming amide linkages. For at least this reason, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Goto et al.

Claims 2-16 are all dependent on the independent Claim 1. As described above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Goto et al. Accordingly, Claims 2-16 are also all allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 17 is directed to method for making a polymer system comprising reacting a carboxylic acid precursor and an amine precursor in a suitable solvent to form an aromatic polyamide, wherein the carboxylic acid precursor comprises an aromatic structure and two reactive carboxylic acid groups and the amine precursor comprises a heterocyclic structure and two reactive amine groups and wherein the heterocyclic structure comprises a hetero-atom in a beta position relative to one or more of the reactive amine groups and isolating the aromatic polyamide. As stated above, Goto et al. fail to teach or suggest a method for making an aromatic polyamide. For at least this reason, the independent Claim 17 is allowable over the teachings of Goto et al.

Claims 18-25 are all dependent on the independent Claim 17. As described above, the independent Claim 17 is allowable over the teachings of Goto et al. Accordingly, Claims 18-25 are also all allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 26 is directed to a method of making an aromatic polyamide comprising combining a first precursor with a second precursor to form the aromatic polyamide, wherein the first precursor comprises two reactive carboxylic acid groups bonded to an aromatic structure and the second precursor comprises two reactive amine groups bonded to a heterocyclic structure and isolating the aromatic polyamide. As stated above, Goto et al. fail to teach or suggest a method of making an aromatic polyamide. For at least this reason, the independent Claim 26 is allowable over the teachings of Goto et al.

Claims 27-33 are all dependent on the independent Claim 26. As described above, the independent Claim 26 is allowable over the teachings of Goto et al. Accordingly, Claims 27-33 are also all allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-33 are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: July 1, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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